

Minutes of the Executive Committee
of the
Negro Welfare League.

Wednesday, March 7, 1918.

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Negro Welfare League was held on the above date at 13 Central Avenue. Those present were:- Mr. C. M. Brown, Rev. R. D. Brown, Mrs. Eugene Gregory, Mr. R. W. Stewart, Miss Virginia Robinson, Miss Helen B. Fendleton, Mr. A. W. MacDougall, Mr. Ashby and the Rev. Dr. Lusk, who presided:

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The treasurer said he would file the exact treasurer's reports with the minutes, but apologized for not having it ready in time to read it at the meeting. He stated that the sum in the bank was a little over \$500 and that money is coming in very slowly.

The Secretary, Mr. Ashby, read a very interesting report which was accepted and ordered to be filed with the minutes.

Report of Executive Secretary of the
Negro Welfare League
for
February.

Employment.

62 persons given employment.
38 women and 24 men. Positions given include placing persons in factories, tanneries, day's work, general housework, a Settlement House Supervisor, a clerk. Newark, Montclair, Orange, Summit and Glen Ridge are the places in which people were given work.

Investigation.

Have made one investigation for the Bloomfield League on Friendly Service, one for the Organized Aid of Jersey City, and three for the Newark B. A. R.

Cases.

23 cases have come to our attention. Have dealt with 12 cases

directly through the office and 21 handled by Friendly Visitors.

Cases include one visit to Court to testify against a man who was harboring a girl; collecting money deposited in a Christmas fund in Jacksonville Fla. The depositor now living here, succeeded in getting from the Government the wife's allowance which should come to wives and children of husbands in the U. S. Army. Referred one person to the Working Mens Compensation Bureau to adjust a matter of an accident. Referred two persons to lawyers. Solicited funds for transportation for one family, got one man into Sobo, and other cases of relief.

Friendly Visitors; have held two meetings attended by 19 persons.

Have made 34 visits.

Big Brothers; have held two meetings. Plans have been made to with Mr. Gates and Mr. Ross of the City Wide Community Boy's Work to conduct a training Class for men who will in turn conduct boys classes in various parts of the city.

Health.

Have reported eight places to the Board of Health and corrections have been made. A voluntary worker has been secured to work in co-operation with the Department of Child Hygiene and interest herself in problems of the unmarried mother.

Housing.

Have referred 7 persons to furnished rooms. Have given our list of furnished rooms to the Federal Shipbuilding Company, Butterworth Judson, and Submarine Boat Corporation.

Co-Operation.

With the New Jersey Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, City Wide Community Boys Work, Bureau of Associated Charities, National Association for Advancement of Colored People, American Red Cross New York, and New Jersey Employment Exchange, Board of Education, Porr and Alms.

Have been called on for information about Negroes in Newark by the Prudential Insurance, and by the Home Mission Board of Methodist Episcopal Church.

Recreation.

Have secured the use of the Club Room of the female Charities Building to conduct Clubs for boys.

Have secured a meeting place through the kindness of the B. A. C. for the St. James Red Cross Chapter.

Plans have been made for Annual Meeting and two meetings have been held. April 15th is set as the date of the meeting at the First Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Mr. R. D. Brown, who was delegate to the Annual Meeting of the National Urban League in New York gave an interesting report. He said one of the most striking addresses was that of Rev. Mr. Fuller, of Memphis, who stated facts without being too optimistic or too pessimistic. He also mentioned Dr. Haynes' address in which he gave the history of the movement which was helpful, scholarly and enlightening. Dr. Haynes said that the present movement was the evolution of four ideas:

- 1st. To better the industrial conditions.
- 2nd. The protection of women.
- 3rd. The co-operation of white and colored people.
- 4th. The co-operation of colored people among themselves.

Dr. Brown thought that most of the speakers in the evening at the Metropolitan Church gave too rosy a view of their work, touching upon the bright side only. For this reason, he thought Dr. Fuller's address all the more useful. The report was adopted by the Urban League Conference which emphasized the great industrial opportunities of the Negro to-day and touched upon the necessity of co-operation of the American Federation of Labor, suggesting that a colored expert be appointed in the Department of Labor to work in all the departments now existing for the purpose of getting more consideration for Negro labor throughout America.

Miss Pendleton stated that the last number of the New Jersey Observer issued March 4th, contained an editorial making the erroneous statement that Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones and others had approached the Department of Labor in Washington asking for the formation of a Negro Welfare Bureau in that Department. It was therefore moved, seconded and carried, that a letter be sent to the New Jersey Observer calling attention to this error and sending a copy of the letter which has been sent by the

Committee of which Mr. Jones was a member, to the Secretary of Labor.

The question was then brought up of the recent bill passed by the Legislature forming a "Migrant Welfare Bureau" under the Department of Labor. The word "Migrant" having been substituted at the hearing in which this bill was discussed for the word "Negro," but apparently it is understood that the work will be entirely confined to Negroes and the phrase "Negro Welfare Bureau" used.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Chairman appoint a Committee of five to call on Col. Bryant, Commissioner of Labor, at the earliest possible moment and ask him whether the persons to be appointed are to be under Civil Service and especially fitted for the task.

Dr. Lusk named Mr. MacDougall, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Vandervall and Mr. C. M. Brown as this Committee. Mr. Brown thought there should be more white people on this Committee, whereupon Miss Pendleton stated she would be glad to go with the Committee. Mr. Vandervall reported that a Branch League has been formed in Union County and brought up the question as to dues and what sums should be paid to the State League. After some discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried that each Branch Organization shall be admitted to membership of the State League upon the payment of \$8 fee and will receive upon the payment of this fee, a certificate of membership. In addition to it, a per capita tax of five cents per member shall be levied.

The opinion of those present was that the Headquarters of the State League should be in Newark and that since the whole of Essex County is practically one big city, that it would make the central work much stronger and more effective if the parent Branch shall include all the townships and boroughs of Essex County. It was duly seconded and carried that the recommendations concerning these dues and divisions shall be brought up before the next Board of Managers Meeting and the by-laws so amended as to cover them. It was also moved, seconded and carried that a business meeting of the Board of Managers shall be held on Monday afternoon, April 8th, 1918, in the Board of Trade rooms. The yearly elections of Managers and Executive Committee shall take place.

The Rev. Mr. Brown read a letter from Mr. Shelby Harrison of the Department of Surveys of the Russell Sage Foundation.

ing that the foundation had been asked to make a survey of the
Philanthropic organizations of Newark, and inquiring whether
these organizations can pay part of the expense of the Survey.
was moved, seconded and carried that Rev. Mr. Brown write
Harrison that the Philanthropic Organizations of Newark
are too few and weak to subscribe any money for this purpose.

Mr. Ashby reported the Housing Committee had reported
the Russell Sage Foundation. Miss Pendleton moved that a
committee be formed to co-operate with the Shade Tree Commission
for their Civic celebrations. This was duly seconded and carried.
The Chairman appointed Miss Pendleton, Mr. C. M. Brown, Mr.
Ry as this Committee.

Mr. Vandervall reported that he hears the conditions at
the arsenal in Dover are deplorable among the colored people
living there and he hears a movement is on at Morristown, to
alter these conditions. It was moved, seconded and carried
that Mr. Vandervall and Mr. Ashby be appointed to go to Morris-
town to see immediately to see if a Branch of the League cannot
be formed there.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Helena B. Pendleton

Secretary, pro. tem.